

Approved

**Town of Brentwood
Budget Committee**
Minutes of January 27, 2014

Present: Elyse Seeley (Chair), Bill Faria, John Lyon, Bob Mantegari, Dianne Vosgien, (School Board Representative), Malcolm Allison, Krista Steger.

Excused Absence: Jeff Bryan (Selectmen Rep).

Visitors: Ken Christiansen, Melissa Litchfield, Ron Kew.

Chairperson Elyse Seeley called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

1. Motion to approve draft minutes from January 20, 2014, Bob/Diane, Approved, 7-0.

OVERALL BUDGETS STATUS:

1. Elyse highlighted the article to be published in the Brentwood Newsletter. There was consensus the article needs to be revised to clarify the tax impact if all the budgets are approved and there is no Board of Selectmen offset. There seemed to be some confusion on the wording of doubling the overall tax impact/increases presented in the article. The Selectmen have lessened the impact of tax increases in the past by using general fund surplus to offset potential tax increases. The overall tax impact could be either \$1.98 (with the proposed Cooperative Budget) or \$1.84 (with the Default Cooperative Budget). Elyse will revise the article and try to get the revision in the February Newsletter, as well as the Overall Budget chart which outlines all the budgets. She will also publish the revision on the Web site. In any case the changes to the article will be published in the March Newsletter prior to the Town Meeting. All the proposed impacts could be changed with votes at Deliberative Session, then again at Town meeting.
2. Elyse asked for a motion on the overall Town budget, motion, Malcolm/Bob, to approve Town Operations budget, in the amount of \$3,639,427.00, approved, 7-0
3. We discussed how the Budgets will be presented at the Public Hearing. At Town Meeting the Fire Department WA is a Bond ballot, so by law this will be presented first. The Ballot will be open for 1 hour. Then Town Operating budget and then subsequent Town Warrant Articles.

At School District Meeting, the Swasey School operating budget will be presented and then Swasey Warrant Articles 2 and 3. If Warrant Articles are planned to be ballot box votes, they will not require 1 hour but simple majority votes of those present.

Coop Deliberative Session: Diane, Krista, and Bob will attend the Cooperative Deliberative Session instead of the Public Hearing. They signed the MS-27 school forms in advance of the Hearing.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Ken Christiansen provided a handout regarding the Fire Department bond. The Selectmen have now been informed from Department of Revenue that a bond hearing is not required for this so it will be a Special Warrant Article to fund the five-year lease/purchase of a new fire apparatus.

Melissa Litchfield inquired if the Fire Department warrant would have to be voted on every year at Town Meeting. Yes, the funding has to be approved every year to fund the lease/purchase of the new apparatus, however there is an escape clause, but we would forfeit any funds already expended.

7:43 pm Motion to adjourn, Diane/Krista, approved 7-0
Minutes respectfully submitted by William C Faria